

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. Claims 15-19 are added by the present response. Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,678,068 to Richter et al. (herein “Richter”) in view of Canon’s imageRUNNER 5000 Series User’s Guide (herein the “Canon” reference).

Addressing the above-noted rejection, applicant respectfully submits the claims as currently written distinguish over the applied art.

Independent claims 1 and 14 are amended by the present response to further recite that the display includes a plurality of “different components successively indicating the different processes from image data reception to data printing, and that are displayed simultaneously on a display portion”. That subject matter is believed to be fully supported by the original specification, for example in Figure 2 showing the various different display components 31-39 successively indicating different processes from image data reception to data printing that the image data is undergoing at any given moment, and that are simultaneously displayed.

The applicant of the present invention recognized that in the conventional art of printing apparatus the status of print jobs has not always been displayed clearly enough so that a user can be comfortable in determining, when a printing operation is being delayed, whether the printing apparatus is merely taking a long time or a problem has occurred and printing has been stopped.¹ Thus, one object of the present invention is to provide a printing apparatus with enhanced displays so that a user can have a better understanding of the progress of printing jobs. One manner in which the present invention achieves such an objective is to include plural different display components successively indicating different

¹ See for example the present specification at page 3, lines 3-13.

processes the image data is undergoing at any given moment, and that can be simultaneously displayed on a display portion. As shown for example in Figure 2 in the present specification the various display components 31-39 provide displays such as a spooling indicator 31, a spool data display 36, a drawing indicator 33, a drawing page data display 34, a saved job data display 35, a printed page data display 36, a printing indicator 37, a supply/exit tray data indicator 38, and a message display 39, all as non-limiting examples of different types of display components of the different processes the image data is undergoing at any moment, and that can be simultaneously displayed.² Several of the dependent claims recite such individual display components.

First, the basis for the outstanding rejection appears to continue to cite Richter at Figures 7-20 and the display being able to display messages concerning the state of an image such as “spooling”, “waiting to rip”, “ripping”, “waiting to print”, and “printing”, and additionally stating that such disclosure in Richter can “sufficiently cover at any given moment which process image data is undergoing”.³

The outstanding rejection is also now based on the position that “Richter does not disclose expressly wherein the display is part of a printing apparatus”.⁴ The outstanding rejection also recognizes that “Richter does not disclose simultaneously displaying different processes image data is undergoing on a display of a printing apparatus. However, Richter does disclose the simultaneous display of different processes that image data is undergoing at any given point in time (see Fig. 27)”.⁵

To overcome that recognized deficiency in Richter the outstanding Office Action now cites the Canon reference, and specifically states:

Canon’s imageRUNNER 5000 series user’s guide discloses wherein the display is part of a printing apparatus and

² See the Specification at page 14, lines 3-9.

³ Office Action of May 4, 2006, page 4, lines 5-6.

⁴ Office Action of May 5, 2006, page 4, first full paragraph.

⁵ Office Action of May 5, 2006, page 2, prenumbered paragraph 2 (original emphasis).

the display can be used to ascertain the status of image data that is to be spooled and printed (see pages 5-13 to 5-27, particularly pages 5-13, 5-14, 5-18, and 5-22).⁶

With respect to the above-noted statements, applicant submits the claimed features are not being fully considered. The claims are not directed to displaying “at any given moment” which process image data is undergoing. Instead in the claims, and particularly as further clarified, different display components that successively indicate different processes from image data reception to data printing are *simultaneously* displayed. That feature is not disclosed or suggested in Richter. In that respect applicant notes that in the various figures of Richter, such as Figures 12-20, Richter discloses only displaying *one* of the noted messages at a time. Richter does not disclose any type of *simultaneously* display as claimed.

The claims are simply directed to a different structure than in Richter. More specifically, in the claims as currently written the display means includes “a plurality of different display components successively indicating the different processes from image data reception to data printing, and that are displayed simultaneously on a display portion”. As noted above, with such claimed feature, and as shown for example in Figure 2 as a non-limiting example, different display portions 31-39 showing different processes that the image data is undergoing from reception to printing can be simultaneously displayed. Such a structure allows an enhanced and easy to understand display so that a user can be more up-to-date on the status of various job operations. Richter does not disclose or suggest such features.

Further, with respect to the combination of teachings of Richter in view of the Canon reference, the Canon reference merely discloses being able to list different jobs and their statuses. That feature in the Canon reference, however, is not the same as the claimed features.

⁶ Office Action of May 5, 2006, page 4, second full paragraph.

Again with reference to Figure 2 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, in the claims different display components can successively indicate different processes from image data reception to data printing. The Canon reference does not disclose or suggest any such type of display. Applicant respectfully submits the teachings in the Canon reference do not add anything to the teachings of Richter with respect to the claimed features. That is, no combination of such teachings will result in different display components that can successively indicate different processes from image data reception to data printing that are simultaneously displayed. At most the combination of teachings of Richter in view of the Canon reference would allow a listing of different jobs to be executed.

In such ways, applicant respectfully submits amended independent claims 1 and 14, and the claims dependent therefrom, patentably distinguish over the combination of teachings of Richter in view of the Canon reference.

Applicant also notes new claims 15-19 are presented for examination. New claim 15 recites specifics of each of the display components that is simultaneously displayed. Those display components include “a spooling display component”, “a drawing display component”, “a printing display component”, “a first spool data display component”, “a second spool data display component”, “a drawing page display component”, “a printed page display component”, and “a saved job display component”. As discussed above such features are shown for example in display components 31-39 in Figure 2 in the present specification. Applicant respectfully submits clearly Richter in view of the Canon reference do not disclose all of these specific display components being simultaneously displayed as recited in new independent claim 15, and the claims dependent therefrom. Thus, new claims 15-19 are believed to even further distinguish over the applied art.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicant respectfully submits the claims as currently written clearly distinguish over the applied art.

Application No. 09/974,838
Reply to Office Action of May 4, 2006.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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